

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 and 7-32 were pending. In this Amendment, claims 7, 12, 14, 16, 18-20, 25, 27, 29, and 31-32 have been amended. Claims 10-11, 17, 23-24 and 30 have been cancelled. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 7-9, 12-16, 18-22, 25-29, and 31-32 will be pending.

In the Office Action Mailed February 21, 2007, claims 7, 10, 16, 20, 23 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,661,422 to Valmiki et al. ("Valmiki"), in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0156086 to Maeda et al. ("Maeda"); claims 8, 9, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valmiki in view of Maeda and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,433,579 to Wang et al.; claims 1-4 were allowed; and claims 11-15, 17-19, 24-28 and 30-32 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowed claims and allowable subject matter. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, in this Amendment, the objected-to claims have been rewritten in independent form to recite all of the limitations of the objected-to claims, as well as those of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 11 and intervening claim 10. Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 12 and 14, which formerly

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depended from claim 11, have been amended to depend from amended claim 7. Claims 13 and 15 depend from claims 12 and 14, respectively.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 17. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Claims 18 and 19, which formerly depended from claim 17, have been amended to depend from amended claim 16.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 24 and intervening claim 23. Claims 23 and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 25 and 27, which formerly depended from claim 24, have been amended to depend from amended claim 20. Claims 26 and 28 depend from claims 25 and 27, respectively.

Claim 29 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 30. Claim 30 has been cancelled. Claims 31 and 32, which formerly depended from claim 30, have been amended to depend from amended claim 29.

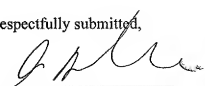
In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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